

FEMORAL GUIDE FOR IMPLANTING A FEMORAL KNEE PROSTHESIS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to the alignment hardware used in a surgical procedure and, more particularly, to an alignment hardware used in the implantation of a femoral prosthesis.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The implantation of knee prosthetics require the distal end of the femur to be prepared to receive a femoral component of the knee prosthetic. This preparation generally requires the resection of various surfaces of the femur to ensure the proper coupling of the knee prosthetic to the resected surfaces. Various guides are known to assist the surgeon in locating cutting blades used to resect the femur.

[0003] The location and size of cuts to the femur generally correspond to internal surfaces within the femoral prosthetics. The location of the surfaces may change depending on the size of the prosthetics used. To this end, a femoral sizing guide is used to determine the size of the femoral prosthetic which will be implanted at the implantation site of the particular patient.

[0004] Femoral knee prosthesis are made available in a range of standard sizes. A femoral sizing guide is used to assist the selection of a standard sized femoral knee prosthetic which will best fit the requirements of a particular implantation site. The size and orientation of the implant is a function

of kinematic and biomechanical considerations. In this regard, the femoral sizing guide is used to measure the condyles of the patient's femur and specifies the proper location of guiding apertures within the femur. As such, it is necessary to provide a reliable femoral sizing guide which is configured to allow the surgeon to determine the size and proper orientation of the femoral implant.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention provides a femoral sizing guide which facilitates the selection and rotational orientation of the femoral prosthetic for a given resected femur. In this regard, the femoral sizing guide is provided having an extension portion configured to be placed adjacent to a posterior condyle surface of the femur. The extension portion is pivotally connected to a base portion at a first location and coupled to a rotation mechanism which is configured to rotate the extension portion with respect to the base. Slidably coupled to the base portion is a superstructure having a drilling guide. Further coupled to the superstructure is a graduated stylus which is configured to measure the location of an anterior condyle surface.

[0006] In another embodiment of the present invention, a femoral sizing guide is provided having an extension portion which is configured to engage a posterior surface of the condyle. The extension portion is pivotally coupled to a base portion at a first location, disposed between the exterior portion and the base is a worm gear configured to rotate the extension portion with respect to the base. A stylus is provided which is coupled to the base

portion wherein the stylus measures the location of an anterior surface of a condyle.

[0007] In another embodiment of the present invention, a femoral sizing guide is provided having an extension portion pivotally coupled to a base portion. Disposed between the base portion and the extension portion is a worm gear which is configured to rotate the angle of the extension portion with respect to the base. Slidably coupled to the base is a superstructure which is configured to measure the location of an anterior side of the femur. Disposed between the superstructure and the base is an actuator configured to move the superstructure with respect to the base.

[0008] Further areas of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description provided hereinafter. It should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating the preferred embodiment of the invention, are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0010] Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the femoral sizing guide of the present invention;

[0011] Figure 2 represents a front view of the femoral sizing guide shown in Figure 1;

[0012] Figure 3 represents a femoral sizing guide shown in Figure 1 with the worm gear actuated;

[0013] Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view of the worm gear mechanism shown in Figure 2;

[0014] Figure 5 represents a side view of the femoral sizing guide measuring a plurality of insert sizes;

[0015] Figure 6 is a side view of the femoral sizing guide coupled to a resected femur;

[0016] Figures 7 and 8 are exploded views of a femoral measurement guide according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0017] Figure 9 is a modular adjustable foot portion shown in Figure 7;

[0018] Figure 10 is a base portion shown in Figure 7; and

[0019] Figures 11 and 12 are modular superstructures shown in Figure 7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0020] The following description of the embodiment is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the invention, its application, or uses.

[0021] Referring generally to Figures 1 and 2, a femoral sizing guide 10 according to the teachings of the present invention is shown. The femoral sizing guide 10 is generally formed of an extension portion 12, a base portion 14, a superstructure portion 16 having a corresponding graduated stylus 18, an

actuator 20 disposed between the superstructure 16 and the base portion 14, and a worm gear 22. The femoral sizing guide 10 is configured to measure the size and general angular orientation of the condyles of a femur to allow a treating physician to interoperatively select a proper femoral prosthetic.

[0022] The feet 25 of the extension portion 12 use the posterior sides of the condylar surfaces as a reference. As the surfaces of the condyles can be degraded due to natural causes, their ability to function as a reference surface and, therefore, indexing plane can be degraded. As such, adjustability of the feet 25 can assist in the alignment of the sizing guide.

[0023] As best seen in Figures 2 and 3, the extension portion has a pair of feet 25 coupled to a central member 26. The extension portion 12 is pivotally coupled to the base portion 14 at a central pivot point 28 through a pivot axis 30. Further disposed between the extension portion 12 and the base portion 14 is a worm gear 22 which functions to rotate the extension portion 12 and corresponding feet 25 about the pivot axis 30 in a predetermined and repeatable fashion. The extension portion 12 further has a depending pin or flange 32 which defines a first portion of the worm gear 22.

[0024] The base portion 14 has a body 34 having a body pivot point 35 which corresponds to the pivot axis 30. A body 34 defines a support flange 38 having a support flange track 40 which is configured to interface with a superstructure track 41. Defined on a first side 35 of the body 34 is a threaded coupling portion 37. The threaded coupling portion 37 is configured to be coupled to the actuator 20. A second side 45 of the body 34 defines a worm

gear mount 39. The worm gear mount 39 defines an aperture 43 and further has a plurality of indexing gradations which will be used by a treating physician to determine the amount of rotation of the feet 25 with respect to the base portion 14 about pivot axis 30. It should be noted that the pivot axis 30 is offset a predetermined distance from the transepicondylar axis of the femur.

[0025] The superstructure 16 has a pair of depending side flanges 42 and 44 which define drilling guides 46 and 48. The first depending side flange 42 further defines a coupling mechanism 50 which is shown in the form of an aperture to rotatable support and guide the actuator 20. The superstructure 16 further has a holding mechanism 52 which defines an indexed slot 54 which slidably receives the graduated stylus 18. The holding mechanism 52 further defines a window 56 which displays graduations 58 of the graduated stylus 18.

[0026] As best seen in Figure 3, the extension portion 12 can be rotated about the pivot axis 30 by the rotation of the worm gear 22. In this regard, the worm gear 22 defines an arcuate slot 60 which is rotatable about a gear pivot point 62. The arcuate slot 60 slidably holds the fixed worm gear pin 32. The rotation of the arcuate slot 60 about the coupling point 62 causes the rotation of the extension portion 12 with respect to the base portion 14. Similarly, it causes rotation with respect to the superstructure 16 and the stylus 18. The worm gear has a system of associated graduations which allow a treating physician to categorize the necessary rotation of the measurement guide about the central pivot axis 30.

[0027] The actuator 20 functions to translate the superstructure portion 16 with respect to the extension portion 12 or the base portion 14. In this regard, the rotation of the actuator 20 causes a threaded distal end 64 of the actuator 20 to rotate within a threaded hole 66 in the coupling portion 37 of the base portion 14. This causes the superstructure portion 16 and stylus 18 to translate in a second axis 67 away from or toward the base portion 14 and associated feet 25 of the extension portion 12. The movement causes translation of the drill guides 46 and 48 with respect to the feet 25 and the resected femur.

[0028] Figure 4 represents a cross-sectional view of the worm gear 22. As seen, the extension portion 12 has a depending pin 32 which interfaces with the arcuate slot 60 defined in a first rotating member 61. The rotating member 61 and associated handle portion 63 are rotatably coupled to the worm gear mount 39 of the base portion 14. The worm gear mount 39 has a plurality of gradations which indicate the relative rotations of the extension portion 12 with respect to the base portion 14 and associated superstructure 16.

[0029] Shown in Figures 5 and 6, the graduated stylus 18 rests against the anterior cortex of the femur at an anterior/posterior location. Angular adjustment of the extension portion 12 with respect to the base portion 14 is made by rotating the worm gear 22 and adjusting the actuator 20 so as to allow for the proper standard size femoral implant to be used. In this regard, the adjustments allow the surgeon to properly position the drilling guides 46 and 48 so as to allow a proper positioning of the guide holes (not shown). The holes drilled using the drilling guides 46 and 48 are used to position a cutting guide (not

shown) which is used to make cuts to form surfaces which correspond to internal planar surfaces on the interior surface of the femoral prosthetic 80.

[0030] As shown in Figures 3, 5, and 6, the feet 25 of the extension portion 12 are positioned adjacent to the posterior side of the femoral condyles. The location of the tip of the stylus 18 is adjusted by sliding the stylus 18 within the index slot 54 of the holding mechanism 52. Further adjustment can be made by adjusting the position of the superstructure 16 with respect to the extension portion by rotating the actuator 20.

[0031] At this point, the worm gear 22 is rotated so as to centrally locate the tip of the stylus 18 on top of the interior condyle surface. The treating physician reads values from the graduated stylus 18, actuator 20, and indexed worm gear 22 to select the appropriate femoral prosthetic. A pair of retaining holes are then bore into the resected femur using the drilling guides 46 and 48.

[0032] Figures 7-12 represent a second embodiment of the present invention. Shown is a modular system which allows a treating physician to interoperatively assemble the femoral sizing guide 10b. This allows the treating physician to use a rotatable foot portion 25a or a non-rotatable foot portion 25b. Additionally, the treating physician can utilize varying types of superstructure 16a or 16b.

[0033] Figures 7 and 8 represent an exploded view of the femoral sizing guide 10b according to the teachings of a second embodiment of the invention. Shown is a base portion 14a which defines a coupling mechanism 82 for coupling either the first or second superstructure 16a or 16b to the top surface

84 of the base portion 14a. As shown, the coupling mechanism can take the form of an aperture 86 defined in the top surface 84 which is configured to fixably receive a post 88 formed on the superstructure 16a or 16b. The post 88 can optionally have a locking feature 90 which allows the post to be non-rotatably and yet releasably coupled to the base 14a.

[0034] Additionally, the base 14a defines a second coupling mechanism 90 which is configured to couple the base 14a to either one of the rotatable foot portion 25a or the non-rotatable foot portion 25b. The coupling mechanism 90 is shown as an elliptical bore defined in the base 14a. The elliptical bore 90 corresponds to an elliptical coupling structure defined on the foot portions 25a or 25b.

[0035] Components which are coupled to base portion 14a can be removed by releasing a spring loaded locking mechanism 92 defined on the elliptical structure on the foot portion 25a. It is envisioned the spring loaded locking mechanism 92 can be positioned on the base 14a.

[0036] As shown in Figures 7, 8, and 10, the base 14a is configured to allow translation of the drilling guides 46 and 48 with respect to the foot portion 25a. Shown is a knob 94, which is coupled to an internal gear (not shown) which causes the relative translation. It is envisioned that the actuator shown in Figure 1 can additionally be used to adjust the relative location of the superstructure portion 16 with respect to the foot portion 25a.

[0037] As best seen in Figure 9, the adjustable foot portion 25a has a rotational mechanism which allows for rotation of the feet 25 with respect to the

coupling mechanism 90. In this regard, the adjustable foot portion 25a has an oval post 96, about which the feet 25 are rotatably coupled. As described above with respect to the first embodiment, rotation of the worm gear 22 causes rotation of the feet with respect to the base portion 14a.

[0038] Figures 11 and 12 represent modular superstructure 16a and 16b. The superstructures are configured to be adjusted in a fashion which allows the treating physician to measure anatomical features of a resected bone. The location of the tip of the stylus 18 can be measured by vertical and horizontal adjustment of the superstructure 16b or by angular movement shown in superstructure 16a.

[0039] The description of the invention is merely exemplary in nature and, thus, variations that do not depart from the gist of the invention are intended to be within the scope of the invention. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention.